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Validity Study of SE-48:

Capabilities and Probable Courses of Action of the
Republic of Korea with Respect to the Armistice in Korea,
published 13 October 1953

The last general estimate on the Republic of Korea was published in 1948. Since that time there have been numerous estimates dealing with the Korean War situation, with particular emphasis on Communist capabilities and intentions. The last estimate dealing with the ROK was SE-48, "Capabilities and Probable Courses of Action of the Republic of Korea with Respect to the Armistice in Korea," dated 13 October 1953. This estimate was concerned primarily with Rhee's capabilities and intentions unilaterally to initiate military action in Korea and its principal conclusions were as follows:

"The ROK has the capability, despite UNC surveillance and countermeasures, to initiate courses of armed action which would disrupt the armistice and might lead to the resumption of full-scale hostilities. We believe that despite some opposition there are enough ROK political and military leaders who would obey any orders President Rhee might issue to enable him to initiate unilateral military action."

"We believe that President Rhee will continue to threaten unilateral renewal of hostilities to strengthen his general bargaining position with regard to international discussions of the Korean problem. Moreover, the possibility exists that President Rhee might initiate military action against the Communists at any time."

Although the first quoted conclusions has not been subjected to a test, we believe it remains valid. Rhee has continued to threaten renewal of hostilities and we continue to believe that the possibility exists that he might initiate military action at any time.

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